Socialist Worker

IT'S A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

VOTE NO!

Q: What is the referendum about?

At present suicidal women are entitled to have an abortion in Ireland. Yet the politicians have never properly legislated for this.

In 1992, 10,000 people marched to support the right of a 14 year old rape victim – the X case – to get an abortion. Afterwards, the Supreme Court ruled that anyone who was suicidal could get an abortion.

This referendum would reverse that judgment. If passed, any woman who had an abortion in Ireland could get 12 years in jail.

Q: But why are some anti-abortion groups opposed to it?

Some extremists want to completely outlaw the morning-after pill and they do not think the referendum is going far enough.

But if this referendum is passed it does not safeguard the morning-after pill. Some of those campaigning for a YES vote have already announced they will take a legal case to ban it after the referendum.

So this referendum is not a real compromise. It is just a blatant attack on women's rights.

Its aim is to reverse the decision after the X case and say a suicidal 14 year old rape victim has now NO right to an abortion.

Q: What is the present situation as regards abortion?

More than 150 Irish women travel EVERY WEEK to have abortions in

Britain. The problem is simply being exported.

Thirty years ago politicians like Charlie Haughey tried to restrict access to contraceptives and it did not work. Today right wing politicians preach hypocrisy but cannot stop abortions.

Instead they force women to pay over €700 to travel to Britain. Stressed women also have to organise accommodation and pay private clinics a fee for a simple surgical operation. Clinics recommend they bring a friend to look after them, so the price increases if they do this.

Q: Why are socialists campaigning for a NO Vote?

Because working class women are discriminated against. Wealthy women have always been able to have abortions in private clinics.

But it is a nightmare for many to find €700 at short notice. Some women are even forced to go ahead with an unwanted pregnancy just because they do not have enough ready cash at that moment.

Why shouldn't Irish women have the same facilities to have abortions quickly, safely and cheaply in their own country?

Q: What would a NO vote mean?

It will show that Ireland has changed and that neither the bishops nor the politicians can dictate what happens in bedrooms.

But a rejection in itself will not give Irish women a full right to choose. For that we will have to take one step further and organise politically.

Socialists have always stood for more freedom and more control over our lives – which includes the freedom of women to decide if they want to have a child or not. This should not depend on whether they have the necessary money to pay for a trip to Britain.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

Get in touch with the Socialist Worker Party locally. Complete this form and return to PO Box 1648 Dublin 8, Tel (01) 872 2682 swp@clubi.ie

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